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SENATE BILL 499

47TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2005

INTRODUCED BY

Gay G. Kernan

AN ACT

RELATING TO SCHOOL PERSONNEL; GRANTING A FOUR-YEAR LEVEL ONE LICENSE; PROVIDING THAT A LEVEL ONE TEACHER MUST TEACH AT LEVEL ONE FOR AT LEAST THREE FULL YEARS BEFORE APPLYING FOR A LEVEL TWO LICENSE; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. Section 22-10A-7 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2003, Chapter 153, Section 38) is amended to read:

"22-10A-7. LEVEL ONE LICENSURE. --

A. A level one license is a provisional [~~three-year~~] four-year license for beginning teachers that requires as a condition of licensure that the licensee undergo a formal mentorship program and an annual intensive performance evaluation by a school administrator for at least three full school years before applying for a level two license.

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

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1 B. Each school district, in accordance with [~~state~~
2 ~~board~~] department rules, shall provide for the mentorship and
3 evaluation of level one teachers. At the end of each year and
4 at the end of the license period, the level one teacher shall
5 be evaluated for competency. If the teacher fails to
6 demonstrate satisfactory progress and competence annually, the
7 teacher may be terminated as provided in Section 22-10A-24 NMSA
8 1978. If the teacher has not demonstrated satisfactory
9 progress and competence by the end of the [~~three-year~~]
10 four-year period, [~~he~~] the teacher shall not be granted a level
11 two license.

12 C. Except in exigent circumstances defined by
13 [~~state-board~~] department rule, a level one license shall not be
14 extended beyond the initial period.

15 D. The department shall issue a standard level one
16 license to an applicant who is at least eighteen years of age
17 who:

18 (1) holds a baccalaureate degree from an
19 accredited educational institution;

20 (2) has successfully completed a [~~state-board-~~
21 ~~approved~~] department-approved teacher preparation program from
22 a nationally accredited or state-approved educational
23 institution;

24 (3) has passed the New Mexico teacher
25 assessments examination; and

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

1 (4) meets other qualifications for level one
2 licensure, including clearance of the required background
3 check.

4 E. The department shall issue an alternative level
5 one license to an applicant who meets the requirements of
6 Section 22-10A-8 NMSA 1978.

7 F. The ~~[state board]~~ department shall establish
8 competencies and qualifications for specific grade levels,
9 types and subject areas of level one licensure, including early
10 childhood, elementary, middle school, secondary, special
11 education and vocational education.

12 G. Beginning with the 2003-2004 school year, with
13 the adoption by the ~~[state board]~~ department of a highly
14 objective uniform statewide standard of evaluation for level
15 one teachers, the minimum salary for a level one teacher shall
16 be thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) for a standard nine and
17 one-half month contract.

18 H. Teachers who hold level one licenses on the
19 effective date of ~~[this]~~ the 2003 act must be evaluated by the
20 end of the 2006-2007 school year. "

21 Section 2. EMERGENCY.--It is necessary for the public
22 peace, health and safety that this act take effect immediately.